



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

March 19, 2002

To: Authorized Representatives

From: Michael Hall
Title II Technology Specialist

Re: Title VI -Rural Education Initiative (REI) Program Data

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has requested that the Office of Public Instruction complete a data table for the REI. This program is also known as Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP). The data table establishes district eligibility for the program. Data pre-filled into the table by the USDE includes:

- District names and National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) identification numbers,
- Locale codes from the NCES, and
- Poverty data from the 1997 Census Update (this data does not match Free and Reduced Lunch data but is the data used by the USDE to determine poverty levels under REI).

The OPI has completed the data table by adding:

- Average Daily Attendance according to the formula required for Impact Aid,
- County population density eligibility according to the criteria that eligible districts reside in counties with a population density of less than 10 people per square mile,
- Participation by districts (the OPI pre-filled all eligible districts as "yes", however actual participation will be determined by returning the REAP, portions of the Consolidated Application for federal programs),
- District allocations for the Title programs last year (these allocations may be different from the amount the district actually received due to adjustments such as Maintenance of Effort, etc.), and
- REI participation eligibility for Subpart 1 – Small Rural Schools and for Subpart 2 – Rural Low Income Schools.

Please review the data to determine your district's eligibility for either the Small and Rural Schools Achievement Program or the Rural and Low-Income School Program under the Rural Education Initiative. To find the data, go to the OPI website at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/>, and then to the Rural Education Initiative on the drop down listings of programs.

Comments on the data must be sent to me at mhall@state.mt.us by March 27, 2002.